



Frequently Asked Questions about On-site Testing for Licensed Well Operators

For Well Operators

Water Resources Program

For more information:

Visit online:
www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wr/wrhome.html
– click on Wells

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Q: What is an on-site exam and who is required to take one?

A: An on-site exam is a field test that may be required for all applicants. The test is designed to demonstrate that an applicant has the basic knowledge and skills required to drill wells in Washington. The test is given by Ecology staff and may take place at the well drilling site or at your shop.

Q: What will be required in the exam?

A: An on-site exam will test the applicant's general knowledge and field skills needed to safely complete a well. The applicant will be asked to show their familiarity with the major components of their drill rig and the construction regulations (Chapter 18.104 RCW and Chapter 173-160 WAC) by operating their drilling equipment.

Q: How will I know I need the on-site exam?

A: We will inform you when we mail your written exam results. It will be your responsibility to contact us. A contact name and number will be sent with your examination results. You will need to be prompt about scheduling the on-site exam. You must take both the written and on-site exams within 30 days of filing your application.

Q: How much does the exam cost?

A: Your application fee includes the cost of the on-site exam.

Q: How do I find out the results of the exam?

A: You will be notified of your test results within 10 days after taking the exam. If you fail the on-site exam, you may retest after waiting at least 30 days. You will not be required to retake the written exam if you fail the on-site exam.

If you need this publication in an alternate format, please call the Water Resources Program at 360-407-6600. Persons with hearing loss can call 711 for Washington Relay Service. Persons with a speech disability can call 877-833-6341.

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